

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 FREETO 01977 211449Z
ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY FREETOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7904

S E C R E T FREETOWN 1977

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: CF, XA, XJ
SUBJ: S. AFRICA POLICY: SHABA, SOVIET CUBAN INVOLVEMENT

REF: STATE 153145

1. EMBASSY STRONGLY SUPPORTS AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S RECOMMENDATION THAT DEPARTMENT LOOK FOR WAYS TO ASSIST AFRICANS TO DEAL MORE EFFECTIVELY WITH AFRICAN PROBLEMS. THIS EMBASSY ALSO AGREES WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY MOOSE THAT THE LIST OF AFRICAN LEADERS TO BE CONSULTED SHOULD GO BEYOND THOSE INCLUDED IN AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S CABLE. WHILE PRESIDENT STEVENS HAS NEVER OCCUPIED A LEADERSHIP ROLE IN AFRICA, HE HAS BEEN VERY SUPPORTIVE OF EFFORTS DURING THE PAST YEAR TO DEVELOP A MEDIATOR ROLE FOR SIERRA LEONE: THIS EFFORT IS LED BY SIERRA LEONE'S YOUNG AND ABLE FOREIGN MINISTER ABDULAI CONTEH WHO IS CURRENTLY CHAIRMAN OF THE OAU MEDIATION COMMITTEE IN THE ETHIOPIAN/SUDAN AFFAIR. I BELIEVE IT IS USEFUL TO ENCOURAGE SIERRA LEONE IN SUCH EFFORTS AND RECOMMEND THAT I BE GIVEN FURTHER OPPORTUNITIES TO SHARE OUR CONCERNS AND OUR VIEWS ON AFRICAN PROBLEMS WITH CONTEH. HE IS NOT IMMUNE FROM CERTAIN AFRICAN CURRENT VIEWS (I DO NOT THINK HE HAS ACCEPTED THE FACT THAT RUSSIAN AND CUBAN ACTIVITY IN AFRICA IS ITSELF BASIS FOR POTENTIAL SUPER-POWER CONFRONTATION ON THE CONTINENT, FOR EXAMPLE) BUT HE CLEARLY WELCOMES EXCHANGES OF
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INFORMATION WITH ME. CAREFULLY REASONED USG APPROACHES TO HIM, ONES THAT ARE SYMPATHETIC TO AFRICAN CONCERNS, CAN BE ONE OF A SERIES OF WAYS OF REACHING THE OAU.

2. THE EMBASSY ALSO STRONGLY SUPPORTS AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S RECOMMENDATION THAT WE SHOULD OFFER TO ASSIST AFRICANS IN FINDING WAYS TO DEAL MORE EFFECTIVELY WITH AFRICAN PROBLEMS.

THIS ASSISTANCE SHOULD BE SUCH THAT WE CAN RESPOND QUICKLY
TO REQUESTS FOR LEGAL AND SOCIAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE (NOT
NECESSARILY AMERICAN) FOR HELP IN DEVELOPING INSTITUTIONS
TO DEAL WITH AFRICAN PROBLEMS.

3. FINALLY WE SHOULD CAREFULLY EXAMINE OUR OWN RHETORIC
TO DETERMINE WHETHER OR NOT WE ARE IN A POSITION TO BE ABLE
TO CAST THE FIRST STONE AND AT WHOM.

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